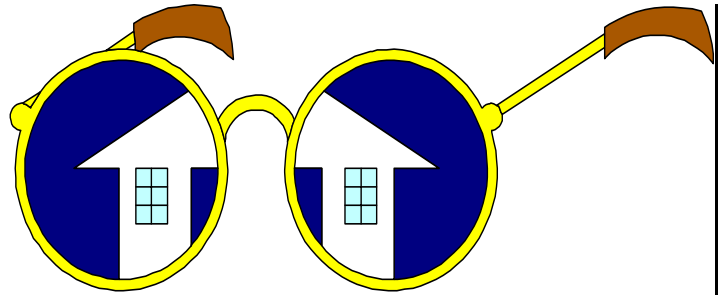


Super Sentinel



August, 2004

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 2

Terri's Tidbits

Farewell to Herb!

On March 2, 2004, a meeting was held with the Sunland Village East Neighborhood Watch captains to honor Herb Henderson upon his retirement as Neighborhood Watch Program Chairperson for SVE. About 125 people showed up to listen to Chief Dennis Donna and the new Superstition District Commander John Meza discuss their plans and goals for the police department and the Superstition District. Herb's contribution to the City of Mesa and the police department was recognized with a gift. We will really miss him since he was the one who kept all 74 N/W groups organized and well stocked with materials, plus he attended many of the meetings providing information and training. Good Luck, Herb!

V.I.N. Etching

Have you had your vehicle windows VIN etched? Our VIN etching program has been very popular. On April 22nd at the Central District station, 120 N. Robson, we had over 75 vehicles that participated. May 12th, we were at the Target store at Power and McKellips and close to 140 vehicles took advantage of the free VIN etching. Currently we are unable to take the "show on the road" since we do not always have the right set up with electricity, driving area, and assistance to just go anywhere. There will be no new

VIN Etching events scheduled until fall and cooler weather returns. Watch the website and newsletters for information on when we will be offering the service again.

Going, Going, Gone!

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we are completely out of the steering wheel locks that we had gotten as part of the last AATA (Arizona Automobile Theft Authority) grant. The grant provided 2000 locks to Mesa residents when they joined the Watch Your Car program. I must apologize to all of you who arrived at our April event with the impression that we still had the locks (one of the area newspapers used an old press release instead of the new one we sent out). The AATA did not provide locks with their 2004 grants, but we are constantly on the look-out for other opportunities for grants that will assist us in our fight against crime.

However, just because we are out of steering wheel locks and the VIN etching events will be suspended over the summer that does not mean you should just forget about protecting your vehicle from being stolen. In fact, you will have to be a little more on your guard since those 2 "layers" are not available. Now might be the time to look into other "layers" that are available. A hidden "kill" switch or an audible alarm system might be an option. Whatever methods you use will be better than nothing at all. The more "layers" you use, the harder you make it for the auto thief.

G.A.I.N.

We are already gearing up for our next G.A.I.N. event. The two important dates for you to remember for 2004 are:

G.A.I.N. Kick Off—

Thursday, September 23

G.A.I.N. Night —

Saturday, October 9

It is not too early to mark the dates on your calendar and to start with the planning for your neighborhood event. Remember area businesses are usually very eager to help provide your group with some of the things you need: food, give-aways, paper plates, etc. Don't be afraid to ask them! You will find the solicitation letter on our website (see page 2 of this newsletter for the address). Also, don't be afraid to try something new. You might be surprised by the results. Asking for ideas and help from your neighbors will help increase participation.

Important Telephone Numbers



Terri Teten 644-3692
Superstition Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator
Emergency or Crime in Progress....
911
Community Relations Unit.....
.....644-2300
Community Relations FAX
.....644-2800
Police Non-Emergency...644-2211
Silent Witness.....1-800-343-TIPS
Narcotics Hotline644-NARC
Graffiti Hotline.....644-3083
Gang Hotline.....644-4264
Fraud Alert Hotline.....644-2345

Looking For Something????

Don't know where to find crime prevention information to present at your Neighborhood Watch meetings? All out of attendance sheets or want to know how to make an emergency kit? Below are website addresses for all kinds of information, plus a way to find more.

1. Copies of Neighborhood Watch **Newsletters**, including back issues for all four police districts:
http://www.cityofmesa.org/police/nw_newsletters.asp
2. Copies of all of our **Crime Prevention brochures**:
<http://www.cityofmesa.org/police/literature/default.asp>
3. Copies of our Neighborhood Watch **attendance sheets, phone trees, and solicitation letters**:
http://www.cityofmesa.org/police/literature/neighborhood_forms.asp
4. American Red Cross: www.redcross.org Local chapter: 602-336-6660
("Family Disaster Planning"; "Terrorism-Planning for the Unexpected")
5. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): www.fema.gov
("Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness")
6. U.S. Department of Homeland Security: www.ready.gov 1-800-BE READY
("Make a Kit" of Emergency Supplies"; "Make a Plan" for what you will do in an emergency"
"Be Informed" about what might Happen; "Preparing Makes Sense, Get Ready Now")
7. The Center for Missing and Exploited Children: <http://www.missingkids.com> 1-800-843-5678
Also: www.cybertipline.com (handles leads from individuals reporting sexual exploitation of children over the internet)
8. Three major Credit Bureaus:
Equifax: www.equifax.com 1-800-685-1111 (credit report) 1-800-525-6285 (report fraud)
Experian: www.experian.com 1-888-397-3742 (credit report and report fraud)
TransUnion: www.tuc.com 1-800-916-8800 (credit report) 1-800-680-7289 (report fraud)
9. Do Not Call List: www.donotcall.gov 1-888-382-1222 (Removal from Telemarketers lists)
10. Your resource for consumer information from the federal government: www.consumer.gov
11. Social Security Department: www.ssa.gov
12. Federal Trade Commission: www.ftc.gov

This is only a sample of the websites that have information on such topics as crime prevention, ID Theft, Homeland Security, etc. If you can't find what you are looking for in any of these websites, give me a call and I will try to locate the information you are interested in.

The Crime Prevention Unit and the Attorney General's Office is partnering to offer a new program for Mesa's Seniors. The program, called "**Arizona Fraud Fighters**", will offer free assistance to anyone who has been either a victim of a fraud or a crime. Volunteer seniors will staff a "storefront" at both the Red Mountain Multi-Generational Center and the Mesa Senior Center one day a week to help victims with the reporting process of the civil complaints. Members of the Mesa Police Crime Prevention Unit will be on call to assist those who have become victims of crimes which might result in criminal actions. The program should be in place by this fall.

The Arizona Fraud Fighter program was modeled after the Florida Seniors vs Crime program. Their program has been extremely successful in helping victims overcome the stigma of being "conned" and take the legal action necessary leading to prosecution or reparation. It has been shown that seniors were more willing to take the initiative if they could have other seniors assist them. It is hoped that the program will grow to the extent that the senior volunteers will be able to take the program to the various RV resorts and senior communities.



By Commander John Meza

As the newly promoted commander of your Superstition District I want to take this time to tell you what an honor it is to be serving as your Police Commander. I would like to tell you a little about myself and hope that I will get to know as many of you as I can in the near future.

I was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona and have been with the Mesa Police Department for almost 18 years. I have served in many capacities including Patrol, Intelligence Unit, Gang Unit, Field Training Program, Crime Prevention, and the Training Section. In March of this year I was promoted to the rank of Commander and assigned to the Superstition Patrol District. Since my new assignment I have been so impressed and proud of the men and women who work at the Superstition District and I want you to know how committed they are in keeping your community safe. I hope to build on our current partnerships and want to express the importance of the Block Watch Program. You are so lucky to have Crime Prevention Specialist Terri Teten as your representative as I have worked with her in the past and know her personal commitment to the program and to all of you.

I look forward to my service as the Commander of the Superstition District. I bring with me a great commitment to our community and a dedication to fight crime. I hold true to the value of our citizens and am committed to you as we work together at meeting our police department's mission. Once again it is an honor to be serving you and feel free to give me a call if you have any concerns or issues you would like to discuss. I can be reached at 480-644-2287. Take care of your selves and I look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Neighborhood Ambassador Program (N.A.P.) Arizona Registrar of Contractors (ROC)

According to the AZ Registrar of Contractors, "Last year unsuspecting Arizonans were scammed out of more than \$25 million of their hard earned money."

To help safeguard the investments of homeowners throughout Arizona, the ROC established the Neighborhood Ambassador Program. This innovative new outreach program builds collaborative efforts with neighborhood leaders, neighborhood groups, and local municipalities to protect the health, safety and public welfare of Arizona's citizens.

Neighborhood Ambassadors are involved in combating unscrupulous and unlicensed construction and home repair scams and in preventing financial exploitation in their neighborhoods. Neighborhood ambassadors participate in a variety of "hands-on" activities and have access to a variety of resources.

The Neighborhood Ambassador Academy gives people a chance to be an ROC Investigator for the day. As a participant you learn first-hand the impact of unlicensed activity in Arizona. Academy participants are exposed to a variety of enforcement activities like neighborhood sweeps and stings to identify home repair scams.

If enough interest is shown in this program an Neighborhood Ambassador Academy can be brought to Mesa. Please call Terri at 480-644-3692 for further details.



New Website for Crime Information



AZCentral.com, a partner with the Arizona Republic has a new section devoted to crime information for the Phoenix area cities, including Mesa. By entering either the name of the city or the zip code a reader can see what crimes have been committed and approximately where (street name and block number). Please be aware that not all criminal activity is listed., but it will give you a idea of the types of activity your area is experiencing. An example of an entry: "stolen vehicle 100 S. Roosevelt Road Mesa 85202 07/06/04"

That site address is: <http://www.azcentral.com/news/crimereports/>



**CITY OF
MESA**

Great People, Quality Service!

Mesa Police Department
Terri Teten, CPS
Crime Prevention Unit
130 North Robson Street
Mesa, AZ 85201-6697
terri.teten@cityofmesa.org

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MESA, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 160



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 2

5:00PM TO 9:30PM — R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) , RMMC, 7530 E. Adobe

RAD is a 9—hour training. *The student must attend both 4 1/2 hour sessions.*

Register through the Mesa Parks — 480-644-4449 or call Terri @ 644-3692 for details.

SEPTEMBER

23 — G.A.I.N. KICKOFF (TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED IN YOUR GAIN PACKETS SENT OUT IN AUGUST)

Mesa Police Training Facility, 3260 N. 40th St.

OCTOBER

9 — G.A.I.N. NIGHT REGISTER AND PLAN EARLY !

NOVEMBER

2 AND 4 — R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) , RMMC, 7530 E. Adobe

RAD is a 9—hour training. *The student must attend both 4 1/2 hour sessions.*

Register through the Mesa Parks — 480-644-4449 or call Terri @ 644-3692 for details.